

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

A TEXT-BOOK OF OPERATIVE SURGERY, covering the Surgical Anatomy and Operative Technic involved in the Operations of General Surgery. By WARREN STONE BICKHAM, M.D., Assistant Instructor in Operative Surgery in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders & Co., 1903.

It is with a feeling of pride that the writer congratulates Dr. Bickham upon his "Text-Book of Operative Surgery." He is proud of the fact that a classical work on this subject has been written by an American teacher. A careful perusal of the work shows but few defects, and it is hoped that the criticisms which are offered will be accepted as being given with the best of intentions.

As a book of reference for the surgeon who desires to refresh his memory as to the details of an operation and the various methods of performing it, this work can be heartily recommended. If, however, it is to be used as a text-book for our medical schools, its curtailment is to be greatly desired.

It seems to the reviewer that if this book were changed so that it were a little more critical as to the value of every operation described, and at the same time omit describing as a separate operation some little difference in technique, it would be a more useful book for both student and practitioner.

The surgeon who consults this work will be astounded at the immense amount of painstaking labor which must have been expended in its preparation. The illustrations, quality of paper, and clearness of text show the highest type of work.

The book is divided into:

Part I. Operations of General Surgery.

Part II. Operations of Special Surgery.

The author begins each chapter with a list of the anatomical structures in the particular region. It would seem to the writer to be far more desirable in future editions to have one drawing illustrating the surgical anatomy of the structure, and a brief description of the principal parts involved, in place of enumerating in detail every artery, vein, nerve, etc., which chances to be in the region. A few diagrams will save much dry anatomical text.

Chapter I is devoted to the subject of ligation of arteries. The description of so many different methods of ligation of the same artery is confusing to the student. By giving one typical mode of ligation of each of the larger arteries, with a brief reference to variations from it, and a critical review of the same, this chapter could be made far more readable. It would also be desirable to have arteries colored in the illustrations. The subject of suture of arteries is treated with great thoroughness. The same spirit of having even the most recent methods painstakingly described and illustrated runs through the entire work, and makes it an absolutely essential one for every surgeon to have at his command.

On page 130 one welcomes a description of how to give an intravenous salt transfusion.

In Chapter III, on the removal of cervical lymph glands, a drawing showing the relations of the vessels, etc., of the neck would seem far more valuable than the detailed anatomical description given.

One misses Cushing's operation for removal of the Gasserian ganglion. A few illustrations of the regions in which neurectomy and neurorrhaphy are most frequently performed is to be suggested.

In Chapter V (Operations on the Bones) the descriptions are explicit and well illustrated. No mention is made of the use of bronze aluminum or iron wire for bone suturing. The use of the Parkhill clamp for ununited fracture could be well omitted. The reviewer would suggest adding some more illustrations of operations for acute osteomyelitis to this chapter.

Chapter XII, on amputations, is to be highly commended. A little less detailed description of the technique of a typical amputation would be desirable.

The author has given in commendable manner the qualifications of good and bad stumps. The only criticism to be offered in this chapter is that there should be a smaller number of methods given, and these more critically.

The same is to be said of Chapter XIII, on resections;

After 457 pages devoted to operations upon bones, joints, nerves, arteries, veins, and lymphatics, the remainder of the work takes up Special Surgery. Here, again, in every chapter the reviewer desires with the best of motives to make the same suggestions. A short description of the anatomical facts of greatest importance in each region, and one or two illustrations of the same quality as those in the remainder of the book, would save what seems undesirable enumeration of structures and relations.

The same criticism in regard to simplifying the number of methods given, and a more critical opinion as to their relative value, holds true for the entire Part II. It would also be desirable to omit the surgery of the eye in this work, except plastic operations on the lids. A few more illustrations of operations for focal epilepsy, cerebral and cerebellar abscess, and tumor are to be suggested. The illustrations in both portions of the book are almost entirely original and faithfully portray conditions at operation. They are executed and reproduced in the most artistic manner.

The term "gut suture" is harsh and superfluous. Obsolete operations, like lumbar colostomy, could well be omitted. The chapters devoted to intestinal suture and anastomosis are classical, but for student purposes must be greatly curtailed. Too much space is devoted to less frequently employed methods of anastomosis.

Bile-duct suture with the Halstead hammer and cholecystolithotripsy could be well omitted. One misses in the chapter upon

the rectum a description of vaginal extirpation. The illustrations and description of appendicectomy are excellent.

The reviewer would suggest in future editions omitting the practice of describing as separate operations the same procedure, e.g., hepatotomy, with slightly different incisions. This custom of the author is to be greatly deplored.

Taken as a whole, the medical profession of America can well congratulate the author for his painstaking and thorough labors. It can be most favorably compared with any of the standard European books on operative surgery. Throughout the book one can observe the work of a conscientious and experienced teacher.

DANIEL N. EISENDRATH.

THE TREATMENT OF FRACTURES. By CHARLES LOCKE SCUDDER, M.D., Surgeon to the Massachusetts General Hospital. Fourth Edition. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders & Co., 1903.

Four editions of this work testify to its popularity. It is an eminently practical work, a work-book on fractures, to which the student may turn when he wishes to know what to do in a given case. The author, moreover, shows him how to do it, and has brought to his aid some 688 illustrations.

The author appeals always for a more general use of anæsthetics as an aid in diagnosis and treatment, especially in injuries involving joints. He takes advantage of the advancements in surgery to apply them to the treatment of fractures, showing how the Röntgen ray has contributed towards a more accurate interpretation of the physical signs of fracture, and therefore to greater accuracy and certainty in treatment. The methods of treatment have been simplified. The new surgery has made it possible for the patient to demand more perfect apposition of fragments, and has enabled the surgeon to resort to the bloody replacement of bones instead of remaining helpless in the presence of irreducible displacements. The results which are being secured

in the open treatment of closed fractures emphasize what anesthesia, antisepsis, and the Röntgen ray can do towards rendering knowledge of fractures more exact and treatment more accurate.

Dr. Scudder does not encumber his work with apparatus, but teaches the student to make each case an object of special study. Instead of dilating upon apparatus and the theories of treatment, the mind is directed to the actual conditions which exist in the fractured bone.

Mechanical simplicity is advocated. The theories of treatment are not discussed. Many fractures which are extremely rare are omitted. It is known that any bone may be fractured at any place; and the author has not attempted to describe the treatment of all the fractures which can be found in the literature. A knowledge of anatomy and an accurate observation of fractures, together with an understanding of mechanical principles, are the requisites in the treatment of fractures.

We are glad to observe the preference shown to the new nomenclature in the designation of closed and open fractures. An excellent chapter on the Röntgen ray and its relation to fractures is added to the work; also some notes upon a few of the more common dislocations.

The work systematically takes up the regions and their bones. In addition to the ordinary treatment of these subjects, we find the treatment of the complications of fractures; special attention given to the treatment of fractures of the femur in children; anatomical facts regarding the epiphyses; gunshot fractures; the employment of plaster-of-Paris, and the ambulant treatment of fractures. Practically, all of the illustrations are new. They are the most instructive of any set of illustrations of this subject.

This fourth edition is improved by the addition of a number of excellent pictures. Additions are also made to the text at various points. There have also been added a number of X-ray plates illustrating the anatomy of the epiphyses.

The author's illustration of the treatment of fracture of the

clavicle is especially to be commended. The statement that complete reduction of Colles's fracture cannot be satisfactorily made without the administration of an anæsthetic, we think is a rather extreme view. Many cases can be reduced as well without an anæsthetic as with it; but we believe that the anæsthetic is withheld in too many cases, and that Dr. Scudder's recommendation will operate in the right direction, even though his suggestion is not altogether in accord with the general experience of surgeons. The general treatment advised for this fracture is such as surgeons indorse.

The treatment of fracture at the elbow in the humerus by acute flexion is well illustrated. The extension apparatus, illustrating treatment of fracture of the thigh, is the most simple and efficient. The car and tracks of the ordinary apparatus are omitted. After the patient is allowed up, the author advises, in ordinary cases, that the free use of the limb without supports shall not be allowed till the end of twelve weeks.

In no work on surgery will the student find a fairer statement of the question of treatment of fracture of the patella than in this book. The non-operative treatment is not complicated by giving a variety of methods, but a simple and rational treatment is described which is applicable to all cases. The operative treatment is declared to be the most satisfactory, and its disadvantages are clearly stated.

In the treatment of fractures of the lower jaw the author is strongly opposed to the ordinary outside splints and bandages, and advises the interdental splints.

This book is well printed and illustrated, and is worthy of the best indorsement of surgeons.

JAMES P. WARBASSE.

DISEASES OF THE EYE. By L. WEBSTER FOX, A.M., M.D., Professor of Ophthalmology in the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia, Pa.; Ophthalmic Surgeon in the Medico-Chirurgical Hospital. With five colored plates and 296 illus-

illustrations in the text. Cloth, \$4.00. New York and London: D. Appleton & Co., 1904.

This author again presents the study of the eye in a new dress. There is advantage in this if each new author tries to tell the story for himself from full knowledge. It will differ from that of others, but will be sure to have some points peculiarly meritorious of its own. The arrangement and conception of subject and presentation of it, as to classes of students, in finished crisp chapters, is delightful. It is new to devote a chapter to development. This and that on the anatomy which follows take up the first thirty-four pages. They are well illustrated, and need to be presented thus, because the work is for students primarily. Then follow pages 36 to 79 on diseases and operations on the lids. The operations are so liberally illustrated that the meagre text is still adequate for all the reader's needs. Unusual as it is to illustrate the lachrymal ducts, it is none the less meritorious and praiseworthy; for this is a real point of difficulty. Thus on through the book individuality appears in illustrations, descriptions, and methods of treatment not commonly adopted, *e.g.*, in the illustration and use of peridectomy for pannus and opaque slips for conical cornea, oddly enough even introducing a layman's description in the latter.

The publishers have given acceptable form to it.

Glossary and copious index close the volume. Our conclusion is, that if another treatise were needed just now, this one deserves a place for its own points of excellence. It is not voluminous (only 594 pages) nor exhaustive; but it is eminently practical and plain, and well meets the needs of student readers.

HEBER N. HOOPLE.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL REPORTS. Vol. III. For 1901 and 1902.

Edited by N. E. BRILL, A.M., M.D., 1903.

This volume of 575 pages contains the medical statistics of the hospital, and some thirty papers based upon the work of the hospital, by members of the staff.

Under the subject of appendicitis we find in the First Surgical Division a comparison of statistics which shows that in 1898 the mortality following operation was 18 per cent; in 1899 it was 29 per cent.; in 1900, 24 per cent.; in 1901, 10 per cent., and in 1902, 9 per cent. This is explained chiefly by the less severe cases being operated upon in the last two years. In the Second Surgical Division there was an operative mortality in appendicitis, in 1901, of 8.33 per cent., and in 1902 of 8.62 per cent. These figures show that the cases of appendicitis in which the general practitioner calls for surgical help are being placed in the hands of the surgeon at an earlier day than heretofore.

The statistics of operations upon the gall-bladder, strangulated hernia, carcinoma of the breast, the prostate gland, and the kidneys are fully studied. The operations upon the stomach show a mortality of about 50 per cent. Dr. Gerster calls attention to the fact that the patients of the Mount Sinai Hospital are mostly Russian Jews, whose habits, mode of living, and occupations are mainly of a sedentary character. They work in confined places for long hours, and are particularly prone to suffer with diseases of the intestinal tract. Hæmorrhoids are very common among them. The large number of cases of abscess of the liver occurring in these people are attributed to hæmorrhoids. The chain of factors are as follows: sedentary habits in poorly nourished people; hæmorrhoids; traumatism and ulceration of the hæmorrhoids; infective thrombosis of hæmorrhoidal veins; thrombotic material conveyed to liver through portal vein; abscess of liver. Strictly scientific proof of this assumption is not present; but it is declared that the ordinarily accepted etiologic factors are absent in these cases, and the hæmorrhoidal hypothesis is the most acceptable.

Dr. Berg has a special article in which he gives a report of sixty-six operations for cholelithiasis. The mortality of 29 per cent. in these operations is explained in the character of the patients from whom the material is drawn. Most of the cases

were ignorant people, far advanced in their diseases, and who accepted operation as a last resort. Thus, out of the sixty-one cases operated upon, nineteen had empyema of the gall-bladder, four had extensive gangrene, six had obstructive jaundice, and practically all had been exhausted before operation by long periods of pain and sepsis. The wretched physical condition of these patients is evidenced by the three deaths from collapse soon after operation.

Dr. Lilienthal has a report of a case of hyperplastic colitis successfully treated by resection of the entire colon, the upper portion of the sigmoid flexure, and four inches of the ileum. Dr. Lilienthal also presents an analysis of his cases of hypertrophy of the prostate, in which he reports seven operations of suprapubic enucleation of the prostate with one death and five complete cures. The fatal case was that of a man sixty-five years old, who was operated upon in an emergency, and in the presence of acute sepsis of the bladder. Dr. Lilienthal's analysis of these cases merits close study. He has shown what the best surgery can do in the suprapubic operation.

The tribute paid to the memory of the late Dr. Paul F. Mundé is a model of memorial addresses.

Dr. Vineberg presents a study of nine consecutive cases of ectopic gestation, and makes the statement that in all but two of these cases there was a rise of temperature. The absence of temperature in these two cases was probably due to hæmorrhage, as febrile movement due to absorption of blood products is a symptom usually present in these cases unless counteracted by the antipyretic effect of acute anemia.

This report, which reflects credit alike upon the surgery and editorial ability of the hospital staff, contains also reports of the work of the pathologists, the anæsthetists, and the X-ray department, and is a valuable contribution to the literature of surgery.

JAMES P. WARBASSE.